

ORAL STATEMENT OF KENNETH M. DUBERSTEIN
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OF THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
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Mr. Chairman and members and the Committee, thank you for this opportunity. I would like to add just a few observations to Senator Mitchell's eloquent statement and our unanimous report.

We recommended strong medicine for the USOC and the IOC. The USOC is following the doctor's orders - the IOC seems to be trying to get a second opinion more to its liking. They want to take an aspirin and call the doctor in the morning some time in the year 2000. The USOC is to be commended - the IOC deserves close monitoring and frequent checkups.

The pace and scope of the IOC's reform actions are disappointing. Expelling a few rank and file members, allowing a handful to resign but leaving the two most prominent culprits who sit on the ICC's executive board to escape with a gentle slap on the wrist is

not encouraging. Announcing the creation of a reform panel - dubbed ICC 200 - a month ago but only announcing 1/4 of its membership in recent days - no matter how prestigious some of its members are - raises serious doubts about the real IOC commitment to serious and far reaching reform. Blaming Salt Lake City officials for entrapment of so-called hapless IOC members says many in Lausanne still don't get it. In short, the IOC to date has not cleaned house they have just begun to air out one small room.

We did not recommend President Samaranch's resignation but he must demonstrate urgent, serious and comprehensive action not mere words or a p.r. offensive - to reform the Olympic Movement Fundamental, systemic reform - from financial transparency to real accountability, from term limits to more athlete participation in open governance must be the prescription taken at the top of the IOC to cure this culture of corruption. I hope your committee will add its voice to our recommendations. Perhaps the IOC and its sponsors will heed your urgings so the integrity and credibility of the Olympic Movement will be restored and reserved. The marvelous athletes and the viewing public deserve no less.

Many thanks.